

To: Blanchard, Mark R.[M.Blanchard@WestonSolutions.com]
From: Ackerman, Joyce
Sent: Sat 8/8/2015 5:04:15 PM
Subject: FW: Sampling process

Hi Mark – Sorry to bug you. I wrote up a description of the overall sampling process (see below), but my local contact is asking for a couple additional sentences about what happens in the lab. Do you have a chemist somewhere who could give me a very short description?

Thank you!

Joyce Ackerman

On-Scene Coordinator and START P.O.

U.S. EPA Region 8

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From: Claire Macpherson [mailto:CMacpherson@sjbhd.org]
Sent: Saturday, August 08, 2015 10:59 AM
To: Ackerman, Joyce; Myers, Craig
Subject: RE: Sampling process

Joyce,

Thank you!! Can you please give me some wording around what takes place during the 24-48 hours of lab testing. What you have given me is great, I just want to be able to help our community have a better understanding of why things take time. CSI makes science look like it only takes seconds.

Thanks again,

Claire Macpherson

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From: Ackerman, Joyce [<mailto:Ackerman.Joyce@epa.gov>]

Sent: Saturday, August 08, 2015 10:40 AM

To: Myers, Craig; Claire Macpherson

Subject: FW: Sampling process

Sampling Process

Sampling crews have been and will be sampling locations from Silverton (and above Silverton, near the Mine), all the way to the Colorado border, a distance of approximately 60 miles. Crews will also sample in New Mexico. The distance between sampling locations involves driving time, especially where sampling locations on the river are in remote, difficult to access locations.

Samples are taken from the river using a hand pump or peristaltic pump. Samples must be filtered. Once at the location, collecting the sample may take ½ hour or more.

The standard procedure for analyzing for metals requires a 16 hour hold time with the preservative. EPA will be adding preservative prior to shipping samples to minimize time needed for the laboratory analysis.

The samples must then be transported to a laboratory, either hand-delivered or shipped. The turnaround time for laboratories is different depending on the number of personnel available and number of instruments available. Small labs may only be able to guarantee a 48 hour turnaround time. Medium and large capacity labs will be able to provide faster turnaround times. EPA is currently using a local laboratory in Durango; which has been extremely cooperative and plans to work through the weekend for this project; however, it is a small capacity lab and will not be able to process the high volume of samples anticipated to be taken.

EPA has now procured the services of a laboratory in Savannah, Georgia. Samples will be shipped overnight to the lab. EPA has requested the fastest possible turnaround time, which is likely to be 24 hours once the lab has received the samples.

The first round of 19 samples collected the evening of the spill and morning following were immediately driven to the EPA laboratory in Golden and prepped for analysis. Those lab results should be available on the website soon.

Joyce Ackerman

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